

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 267

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR MY TH

SUBJ: COMMUNIST TERRORIST ATTACK ON COMBINED MALAYSIAN-THAI
BORDER SURVEY TEAM

1. JUNE 20 EDITION OF "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) RE-
PORTED AMBUSH BY ESTIMATED 60 COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CTS)
ON COMBINED 34 MAN MALAYSIAN - THAI BORDER SURVEY
TEAM IN KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OF KEDAH ON MORNING OF
JUNE 18. ATTACK RESULTED IN 11 MALAYSIANS AND 4
THAIS KILLED, ALONG WITH 3 MALAYSIANS AND 3 THAIS
WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO HOME AFFAIREMMINISTER, GHAZALI
SHAFIE, AMBUSH WAS CARRIED OUT BY REVOLUTIONARY FACTION
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OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYSIA (CPM-RF) USING LAND MINES

AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. OF THE 11 MALAYSIANS KILLED, 8 WERE MEMBERS OF SIXTH BATTALION POLICE FIELD FORCE (PFF) AND 3 WERE CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE BORDER SURVEY TEAM. THOSE THAIS KILLED AND WOUNDED PLUS 3 WOUNDED MALAYSIANS WERE MEMBERS OF A PFF AND THAI POLICE PLATOON ASSIGNED TO PROTECT CIVILIAN SURVEYORS. SECURITY FORCES HAVE INITIATED OPERATIONS TO TRACK DOWN CT UNIT.

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW, GHAZALI COMMENTED THAT SINCE JUNE 21 MARKS 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMERGENCY, MORE INCIDENTS ARE EXPECTED. HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT CALCULATES NUMBER OF TERRORISTS OPERATING ON THAI - MALAYSIAN BORDER AT 2,054, OF WHOM 1,177 ARE THAIS. OF THIS TOTAL, THERE ARE 732 CHINESE OF MALAYSIAN ORIGIN, 107 MALAYS OF MALAYSIAN ORIGIN, 2 INDIANS OF MALAYSIAN ORIGIN, 11 ORANG ASLI (ABORIGINES), 661 CHINESE OF THAI ORIGIN, 509 MALAYS OF THAI ORIGIN, 23 CHINESE OF MALAYSIAN ORIGIN "MASQUERADING AS MALAYS," AND 2 JAPANESE WHO HAVE BEEN WITH CT'S SINCE WORLD WAR II.

3. GHAZALI COMMENTED FURTHER THAT, UNLIKE PREVIOUSLY, THAI OFFICIALS ARE NOW GIVING PRIORITY TO ANTI-COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND. ALSO, A SPECIAL SESSION OF MALAYSIAN AND THAI REGIONAL BORDER OFFICIALS HAS BEEN CALLED TO FORMULATE PLANS TO DEAL WITH INSURGENCY PROBLEMS AND SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN A MONTH.

4. A JUNE 21 NST EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "THE CT COUNT" LISTED CASUALTY STATISTICS SINCE MARCH 1975 AS 4 ASSASSINATIONS OF SECURITY PERSONNEL, 21 ARMY PERSONNEL KILLED, 30 PFF WOUNDED, AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. THESE FIGURES WERE CONTRASTED WITH CASUALTIES IN 1951, CONSIDERED TO BE HEIGHT OF EMERGENCY, WHEN SECURITY FORCES SUFFERED 1,195 CASUALTIES AND CIVILIAN POPULATION, 1,161.

5. NOTING CT STRENGTH FIGURES GIVEN PARA 2 ABOVE, NST EDITORIAL SAID: "THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA REMAINS A CHINESE MOVEMENT." REMAINDER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EDITORIAL WARNED THAT COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WILL BOOST MORALE OF TERRORISTS IN MALAYSIA AND NST ADVOCATES CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA AS BEING OF KEY IMPORTANCE. EDITORIAL COMMENTED IT APPEARS THAILAND HAS MADE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENT AND IS NOW READY TO FOCUS SERIOUSLY ON MALAYSIA - THAI BORDER PROBLEMS.

6. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, NST JUNE 21 REPORTS ASSASSINATION OF POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH (SB) DETECTIVE JUNE 20 IN IPOH, PERAK. LAST WEEK, SB DETECTIVE WAS SHOT BUT NOT KILLED BY CT'S IN MALACCA AND DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF BATU GAJAH DETENTION CAMP, A POLICE OFFICER, WAS KILLED BY ASSASSINS IN OTHER INCIDENT IN PERAK.

7. COMMENT: NST ARTICLES CITED ABOVE HIGHLIGHT NEW THAI-MALAYSIAN COOPERATION CONCERNING CT PROBLEM ON SOUTHERN THAI/NORTHERN MALAYAN BORDER. MOST LIKELY, GOM WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE SUCH DEVELOPMENT GOOD PRESS TO ENCOURAGE THAI COOPERATION. CT STATISTICS PRESENTED BY GHAZALI EMPHASIZE FACT THAT OVER 50 PERCENT OF CTS ARE THAIS, AND ARE SEEN AS FURTHER ATTEMPT SOLICIT THAI INVOLVEMENT. ALSO, NST COMMENT THAT COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN MALAYSIA IS A CHINESE MOVEMENT WILL DO LITTLE TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS ALREADY EXISTING BETWEEN CHINESE AND MALAYS. FINALLY IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT CPM-RF (CT 8TH REGIMENT OPERATING IN SADAU DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN THAILAND) WAS ATTACKER IN JUNE 18 INCIDENT; CPM-RF SURFACES ONLY RARELY, HAVING LAST BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTACK ON FREIGHT TRAIN IN PERLIS IN MID-FEBRUARY (KL 842).

8. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING OF THIS REPORT, NEWS OF ANOTHER ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS. ON JUNE 20, SB CHIEF INSPECTOR IN SUNGEI PATANI, PERAK, WAS SHOT BY GUNMEN, MAKING TOTAL OF FOUR SUCH INCIDENTS IN LAST TWO WEEKS.
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